

A special perspective on savoring New Orleans



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Guest Guidelines

Reviewing our guidelines will allow you to plan your time with us more efficiently.



King of Zulu, 1990; Carnival collection.

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When friends or relatives of ours visit New Orleans, what do we suggest they do? Here are a few things we recommend to help visitors savor our city.

The Canal Street Ferry

Free for pedestrians, the Mississippi River ferry offers the city's most spectacular skyline views. At sunrise, especially on foggy mornings, the view can be breathtaking. Budget 30 to 45 minutes to ride across and come back. The ferry leaves the Canal Street docks every half-hour from 6 AM to 11:45 PM. Do not ride the last ferry unless you plan to take a very expensive taxi back from Algiers.

Special French Quarter Atmosphere

Napoleon House (500 Chartres). Napoleon House is a corner cafe with a juke box that plays only opera. Housed in a 1797 landmark, it has been owned and operated by the Impastato family since 1914. It's the perfect place to enjoy a New Orleans muffeetta (a ham, salami, cheese, and vegetable relish sandwich). They're big, so split one with a friend) and a **Pimms Cup**, a wonderful, light beverage for a hot day.

St. Charles Avenue Streetcar

The streetcar offers an easy and pleasant opportunity to enjoy other parts of the city. From Canal Street, the **St. Charles Avenue Streetcar** travels through the Central Business District and along St. Charles Avenue (New Orleans most glorious street), past the historic Garden District, Loyola and Tulane Universities, and Audubon Park, ending at Palmer Park, where you exit, pay a second \$1.25 fare, and reboard to return. You can enjoy the 13-mile, 90-minute roundtrip twenty-four hours a day.

The new **Canal Street streetcar line** takes you to historic cemeteries and the New Orleans Museum of Art. It has the added benefits of being air conditioned and ADA-compliant, making it a good choice for a warm afternoon.

Whenever you exit to sightsee, you'll have to pay another fare to reboard, so consider purchasing a VisiTour pass from the driver (1-day pass, \$5; you can purchase a 3-day pass for \$12 from most

Tips for enjoying New Orleans

The French Quarter, Arts and Warehouse District, and Convention District are central to the city's tourism economy. Therefore, they are heavily patrolled by police, especially plain clothes police officers. However, you should still be aware of your environment and take the same common sense precautions as in any other major metropolitan area.

The French Quarter police station is at 334 Royal Street. Its phone number is 565-7540.

Don't overdo it. If you're sightseeing in the heat of the day, remember to drink plenty of water.

New Orleans has three streetcar lines: the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar Line, the Canal Street Streetcar Line, and the

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hotel concierge offices), which lets you ride all streetcars and buses as much as you want.

Music

For traditional New Orleans Jazz, the Palm Court Jazz Cafe (1204 Decatur St). *Zagat's* says the Palm Court offers "absolutely fabulous traditional jazz" and "great ambiance." The food is classic New Orleans Creole with a few eclectic dishes, but the music is the main draw. Also offers a gift shop that sells hard-to-find jazz compact discs. Reservations recommended.

For contemporary and progressive Jazz, **Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro** (626 Frenchmen St). Good food, the ambience is respectful of the music, and Ellis Marsalis, patriarch of the Marsalis clan, is a regular. Consider ordering tickets in advance. Shows at 9 and 11 PM; reservations recommended.

For Cajun music, food (especially seafood), and dancing, **Mulate's** is across the street from the Riverwalk. It features nightly live Cajun music and dancing along with large quantities of authentic Cajun food.



Crawfish Etouffee - You can't get enough!

Bread Pudding

Bread pudding is New Orleans' traditional dessert. For something different, try the incredible white chocolate bread pudding at the **Palace Cafe** (605 Canal Street). A more famous version, and also amazingly delicious, is the bread pudding soufflé at **Commander's Palace** in the Garden District (1403 Washington Avenue). The kitchen needs extra time to prepare the soufflé, so remember to order it at the beginning of your meal.

Commander's is a quintessential New Orleans experience. Dinner is expensive but lunch is one of the best bargains in town, with the same legendary Commander's service and quality. Only two blocks down Washington Street from the streetcar, you can combine a streetcar trip, a wonderful lunch, and a walking tour of the Garden District. Pick up a Commander's walking tour brochure and spend an hour strolling through the historic neighborhood.

Wake up and smell the cafe au lait!

While New Orleans is famous for chicory coffee, many persons do not know that our city is a center of coffee importing and roasting for North America. Mocha and Java beans were first blended together here.

Riverfront Streetcar Line. Ride all three! All are accessible at the foot of Canal Street. [Check routes and schedules here.](#)

The bus fare and one-way fare for all streetcars is \$1.25 (exact change, please). Your streetcar or bus driver can sell you a 1-day VisiTour pass (\$5; you can buy a 3-day pass for \$12 from your hotel concierge) good for all for New Orleans buses and streetcars.

If it's late or you're tired, take a taxi back to your hotel instead of walking. Taxis in New Orleans are easy to flag down and reasonably priced.

New Orleans' civilized open container laws allow you to enjoy alcoholic beverages while strolling down French Quarter streets. It's a nice way to window shop. If you want to take a drink with you, ask your bartender to pour it into a free plastic "go cup." Cans and glass bottles are not allowed on the street.

The French Quarter is first a neighborhood. Please respect the privacy of the families who live there.

Because French Quarter streets are narrow, cars may park on only one



John Kennedy Toole, author, 'Confederacy of Dunces,' 1945; John Kennedy Toole papers.

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Original costume design, Mistick Krewe of Comus, 1914; Carnival collection.

About Us

For traditional chicory cafe au lait, a visit to **Cafe du Monde** in the **French Market** is required.

Established in 1862, it is open 24/7 and operates in an 1813 French Market building. Be sure to try an order of beignets ("bin-yays"), a sort of New Orleans-style doughnut.



For gourmet roasts, **Royal Blend Coffee** (621 Royal Street) offers excellent blends in a beautiful and authentic French Quarter courtyard.

There are two **CC's Coffee Houses** in the French Quarter, one on Jackson Square and another at 528 St. Peter. CC's offers excellent coffee with pastries, quiches, and other light foods by national television chef **John Folse**. A "Mochasippi" at CC's beats a Frappaccino hands down.

Tulane's campus is also home to two PJ's, a popular local coffee house chain. One is located at the corner of Freret and McAlister in the Stern Building walkthrough, and the other is in the corner of the Willow Street Dorms as the corner of Willow and McAlister.

Pizza

For a romantic French Quarter setting, try Mona Lisa (1212 Royal Street). Mona Lisa exudes French Quarter atmosphere, with worn oriental carpets and antique hookahs. *Recommended: a half-seafood, half-garden pizza.* Visiting Mona Lisa gives you an excuse to walk the length of Royal Street. Lined with art galleries and antique shops, Royal is the French Quarter's most glorious street.

For nouvelle pizza, try the **Louisiana Pizza Kitchen** at the end of the French Market. As well as great food (they cook their pizzas in a wood-fired oven. *Recommended: the Gambretti Pizza*, with shrimp, jalapenos, and cilantro), you get a fun view of the bustling French Market and of ships loading at Governor Nicholls Street Wharf.

Local Favorites

Epicurious rates **Irene's Cuisine** (corner of Saint Philip and Chartres) as one of its "essential" New Orleans restaurants. Famous for its rosemary chicken, this cozy Italian restaurant features southern Italian food with French Provencal influences. \$21--\$30, upscale casual, dinner only, no reservations, so come early or be prepared to wait in line. Try ending your meal with an Italian-style baked Alaska, glowing beneath a blue flame of ignited grappa.

Aquarium / Zoo Cruise

side of many streets. Favor walking on the side of the street *without* cars, because it will give you a clearer view of who's around you.

Especially at night, it's better to walk in groups.

Especially at night, it's best to stay on streets where you see other groups of visitors.

During peak nighttime hours, most bars and even some restaurants will be heavily smoke filled. Bourbon Street bars and dance clubs like Oz, Cafe Lafitte in Exile, and the Bourbon Pub have second story balconies overlooking the street which are good places to escape for fresh air. The balconies offer a wonderful view of one of America's most famous streets.

Even though Armstrong Park and Rampart Street are well lit at night and inviting, it's probably better not to wander too far at night beyond the area between the river and Bourbon Street, except for well-lit, heavily trafficked areas.

When you order a sandwich, burger, or po-boy, your server will ask

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Mayor Vic Schiro as King of Krewe of Hermes, 1977; Victor H. Schiro papers.

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The riverboat ***John James Audubon***

makes the seven-mile round-trip between the **zoo** and **aquarium** four times daily. It's a wonderful way to combine visits to these acclaimed facilities with a Mississippi cruise. Your best value is a combo boat, aquarium, and zoo pass (\$31 adults; \$15.50 children). In summer, cruise to the zoo in the morning and take the boat or streetcar back for an air-conditioned afternoon in the aquarium. The zoo features rare animals in natural settings, including albino alligators in an award-winning swamp exhibit. Children love the aquarium's penguin, otter, and seahorse exhibits. It also has a rainforest frog exhibit and the world's largest exhibit of living jellyfish. The jellyfish are breathtakingly beautiful, like ghosts in the water.



Hamburgers

A hamburger at the **Port Of Call** (838 Esplanade Ave) is a classic New Orleans experience; some **experts** rate it the best hamburger in the country. In addition to great burgers and pizza, the fifties Tiki lounge decor and Tiki lounge drinks give the restaurant charm and romance.

When you've barhopped Bourbon Street until two in the morning and you're ready to tackle the trek back to your hotel, you'll need to load up on carbs and protein. The **Clover Grill** (900 Bourbon Street) is the place to do it. Open 24/7, this diner is regularly mentioned in national magazines and is famous for grilling hamburgers under a hubcap. It also has good omelets and great "Geaux Girl" waffles. However, when busy, the cigarette smoke can be oppressive.

View from a Restaurant

Bella Luna, in the French Market, has a wall of large windows with dramatic views of the Mississippi River. At night, in the moonlight, it is easy to understand why *Gourmet Magazine* named it one of America's most romantic restaurants (jackets for men preferred; reservations recommended).

A less expensive, less formal, and less *haute cuisine* alternative is the stunning view of the river from the Riverview restaurant on the Marriott's 41st floor (614 Canal Street).



Loretta Shaw Harrison making her famous pralines.

Pralines

Loretta's in the French Market. Loretta's pralines have been made by the same family for four generations. The traditional praline is fantastic, but if you're feeling adventurous, go for the coconut praline. Visiting Loretta's is also a chance to see the bustle of the French Market, a working open air market with fresh fruit and vegetable stands, shops, flea markets, restaurants, and more.

if you want it "dressed." That means with lettuce, tomato, and maybe mayonnaise. "Not dressed" (not "undressed") means just meat and a bun.

There is no "r" in "po-boy."

When crossing streets, remember that New Orleans drivers do not believe in turn signals. They also view stop signs and stop lights with great suspicion.

Traditional New Orleans cuisine is "Creole," which means cooking styles descended from 18th and early-19th century French traditions. It is lighter, more refined, and often more expensive. It is typically associated today with the old elite restaurants, such as Antoine's, Arnaud's and Galatoire's.

"Cajun" cooking refers to rural South Louisiana traditions, and it is a recent arrival to New Orleans. It typically involves darker sauces, stronger seasonings, deep frying, and the "Holy Trinity" of bell peppers, onions, and garlic. A huge platter of fried seafood with a side of spicy crawfish etoufee is Cajun. Shrimp Remoulade with Oysters Rockefeller is Creole.

Here is one source for [New Orleans discount coupons](#).



The background design is "Fruit," (also known as "Pomegranate") a William Morris wallpaper design from 1866. Morris founded Kelmscott Press in 1891 to publish his designs and promote his design philosophy. Special Collections preserves a Kelmscott Press collection.

* ArchivesUSA is available only to the Tulane community.

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And, of course . . . seafood

In addition to restaurants mentioned above, **Acme Oyster House** (724 Iberville St), is a "must visit" French Quarter tradition. Famous chef Paul Prudhomme's **K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen** (416 Chartres St) is relatively expensive. For the money, another choice might be the Bon Ton Cafe (401 Magazine St), a more upscale and more gently seasoned take on traditional Cajun. Be sure to try the Bon Ton's Rum Ramsey Cocktail.

Mike Anderson's (215 Bourbon St) offers the bonus of being located in a two hundred-year old building in the heart of the French Quarter. For crawfish novices, its "7-way Crawfish Dinner" (crawfish bisque, crawfish cocktail, crawfish stuffed mushroom, fried crawfish tails, crawfish etoufee, crawfish au gratin, and crawfish scampi) is a good starter set. There is also a Mike Anderson's in the **Riverwalk** food court. It's a wonderful place to get a bowl of gumbo and a bottle of Abita Amber, take a table on the deck, and watch ships from around the globe visit one of the world's busiest ports.

If a stranger walks up to you and says "I bet I can tell you where you got those shoes," the correct response is "I got them on my feet."

New Orleans' NPR station is WWNO (89.9 FM). *Morning Edition* is from 5-9:00 AM; *All Things Considered* is from 4-6:30 PM.

For local music, listener supported WWOZ (90.7 FM) is a national treasure.

For persons needing reassurance that the world as they knew it still exists, there are two Starbucks within walking distance of the French Quarter, one in Canal Place and the other in the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street. For emergencies, there is a Krispy Kreme in Metairie.

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We welcome your [comments and suggestions](#).